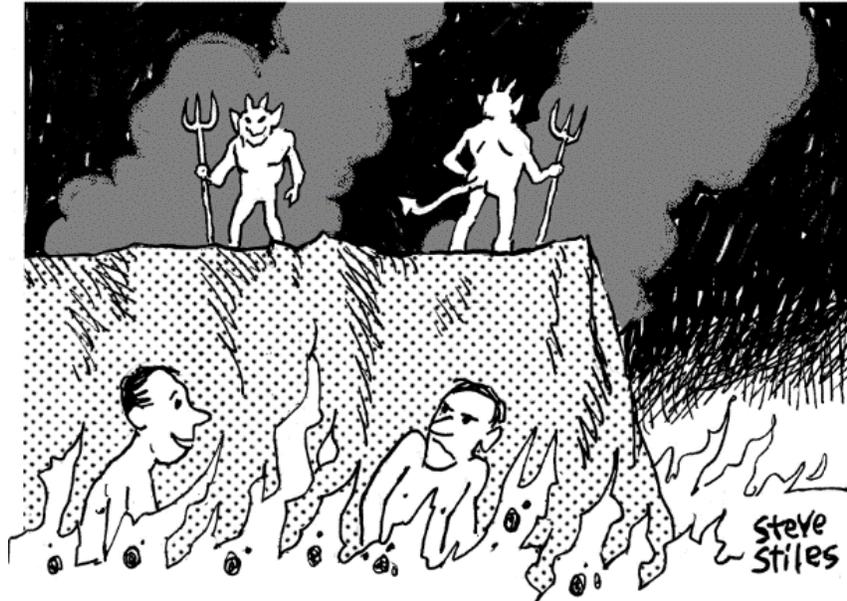


The Interesting Times #5

January 2017



"So who did *you* vote for in the last election?"

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Big News

Northwest Fan Fest Vancouver (VCON committee, Jan. 27, 2017:)

"Today our parent non-profit organization, WCSFA - West Coast Science Fiction Association made two announcements that we think will really please our fans.

"The first, of general interest to any local popular culture fan is that they have accepted stewardship of the Northwest Fan Fest summer convention

from the West Coast Fan Society. Follow this link to read WCSFA's blog post about it (which also links to the official press release):
<http://wcsfa.org/.../wcsfa-takes-on-stewardship-of-northwest.../>

Re VCON Relaxicon 41 ½ Vancouver (VCON committee)

"The second, which we feel is much more important, is the announcement about the event plans for 2017. You can click the main link below to see our blog post about the announcement (which also has a link to WCSFA's official press release), but here's what *WE* believe to be the most significant excerpt:

"We're scaling back the traditional VCON just a bit, focusing more on people getting together with people. We want to make sure people have time to relax and enjoy the community that we've all worked to build. We can confirm that this event is a go and will be held 28-29 October 2017 at the Vancouver Guildford Sheraton Hotel."

Guest Editorial: The Case Against World Government

By The Pobble Who Has No Toes

There are several problems with the concept of government, and they come to a head when we face the proposition of world government.

An unsympathetic observer, such as I am, might state that the alleged classic objects of government are national defense, domestic law enforcement, and some relief for the poor; but the record of governments in every country has been ambiguous in much of our history, and poor to nonexistent in many notorious countries. Thus, a world government would create another organization with only a mediocre promise of task fulfilment.

As it is, the trend of at least the last century and a half has been for national governments to take up responsibilities barely addressed by religious charities, or not addressed at all: social insurance, search and rescue, food and water quality control, road and utilities maintenance, many ~~Belgian~~ licensing and registration services, etc.

The ostensible purpose of any world government would be to address issues that are still barely addressed by national governments. We have no global, effective protection of endangered species, much less threatened ecosystems. We have halting, sometimes effective measures against epidemic disease; against starvation or genocide in the wake of disasters or wars; against ~~Belgian~~ piracy, ~~Belgian~~ human trafficking, or the ~~Belgian~~ trade in toxic drugs; and little control over homicidal ~~Belgian~~ corporations or ~~Belgian~~ financial systems.

A cynic might claim that ever since settled agrarian societies first arose, we have really achieved *bureaucracies*, whether they were governments, or priesthoods, or military structures, or ladies' aid societies. A cynic might also claim that the first priority of bureaucracies is self-perpetuation, even before accomplishing their ostensible purposes. Thus, a world government would only create another set of ~~Belgian~~ bureaucracies to consume more annual gross planetary production.

An anarchist might claim that at least our multiple nation-states, being more or less sovereign and competing to stay so, can keep each other more or less honest, and offer people scope for voting with their feet, and getting out from under really oppressive regimes. Thus, a world government, if once it became oppressive, would by definition eliminate any competition, and any foreign refuge.

The Chamber Magazine “Beginning in January 1, 2017. This will be a new on-line quarterly magazine for short stories, poetry, and other short works of the horror genre. You can find the guidelines for submissions on the current Submissions and Announcements page, which will remain the same, with only the exception that the word limit for submissions for *The Chamber* will increase from 1,000 to 2,000 words.

<https://philslattery.wordpress.com/2016/10/09/-3/>

(*Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter*, January-February 2017)

Masthead

Welcome to *The Interesting Times* #5, dated January 2017, a propaganda organ of the World Government of Spuzzum. This local edition is a zine distributed by Garth Spencer at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com. This zine is available for contributions in the form of articles, letters, illustrations, or other zines in trade.

Pictures

Steve Stiles p. 1
Clipart pp. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

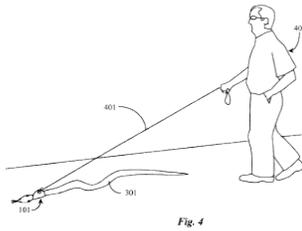
FAPA (the Fantasy Amateur Publication Association) is “down to 20 members and could use some more. Membership is \$20 US. The O.E.s, Steven and Vicki Ogden, offer a service to foreign members wherein they accept a PDF via email and print out the requisite number of copies for inclusion in the next mailing. They then send a bill to cover their costs. ... it seems more practical and reliable than sending a bunch of copies through the mail.

“If you are interested in joining FAPA, query the Treasurer robertlichtman@yahoo.com re payment and the O.E.s at steven.ogden@yahoo.com .”

(R. Graeme Cameron, private correspondence, Jan. 2017)



There may be ways to meet the needs pointed out as a global government's rationale; but adding one more layer of ~~Belgian~~ administration does not appear to answer them.



Letters

David Malinski, murdock@axion.net, January 3, 2017

Joe Swenson did some mad science displays at conventions in Minneapolis in the 2002-2013 time frame. He said that there were a dozen or so regular attendees at his panels in conventions that hosted 2000-7000 members, with a high of about 30 in one panel about 2010. That would translate to 2 people coming to your panel at an average VCON (just adjusting for #s). Unless you are doing these panels/events for charity purposes, they will not engage many people.

The media-minded SF crowd is far less interested in 'science'. They will come out to meet technical people and engage with them on engineering or special effects topics, so maybe if you combined the 'mad-science' with a set construction or special effects personality you could get better numbers to attend.

Make that a boobs-n-bombs panel with someone like Lucy Lawless or modern anime equivalent and I bet you would have great attendance.

Mike Meara, amfocontact1@virginmedia.com, January 3, 2017

Well, it took its time, but IT#4 may well be my Fanzine Of The Year. And if I can be arsed to vote in the FAAn Awards - which I may not, because the current Administrator's voting system is insane - then I shall acknowledge it so. Not that it will do much good, because hardly anyone out there, of the hardly anyone who is out there, seems to know or care that you exist. But I do.

Have as good a 2017 as you can manage, which will probably not be very good at all in the circumstances, but it's pointless being unreasonably optimistic, which is to say, optimistic.

To answer your question, if such an endeavour might result in a portable remote brain realignment device that works only on politicians, religious nutjobs and business leaders, and only in the hands of fans, then I'd say, go for it. Otherwise, there's too much madness in the world as it is.

Do-Ming Lum <do.ming.lum@gmail.com>, January 3, 2017

Any or all of your suggestions are a good thing! I have found that many people with a technical bent tend to be SF fans as well.

Lyn McConchie, farside@wave.co.nz, January 4, 2017

(Re inviting people to hold a Mad Science Fair)

Only if anyone wants to; force-feeding it won't help, because the main problem is that they don't want to ... sigh. Contemporary fandom suffers from the malady suffered by most of that generation. Why do something when we can sit back passively and listen to someone else. What? Us, actually *do* something, are you nuts? (And that applies double if we aren't paid...)

(('Twas ever thus. I no longer know why I, or anyone, got the idea that rubbing two dry words together would galvanize a lot of fans into action; but the disappointment when it doesn't happen occurs every generation - I am not exaggerating - usually in the form of disparaging another generation's energy and interests.))

I'd have more on this subject if I wasn't of a non-contemporary generation and this week I'm writing three articles for our local newspaper, two for the Crime mag I subscribe to, and three reviews for them too.

I carefully read the article on [43-man] Squamish. Then I read it again. After that I read it a third time and tottered away to stick my head in a bowl of cold water and cool my fevered brow. I'm not sure where this came from or what maniac produced it. What I would very much like to see is Squamish being played. I reserve the option, should that happen, of taking a waterblaster to underline my own decisions on the correctness of what I see by blowing away any player with those actions I disagree. This can only simplify matters.

And finally, on dystopias, I look at other countries and sigh thankfully. I live in a small country on the far side of nowhere, where it takes 10-20 years for fads, preoccupations, and (probably Donald Trump) to reach us and cause

any kind of effect. Most of our population at some time in their lives visit a fair number of other countries - then return home. It reminds me of a customs officer I ran into in 1989 who seemed to suspect that I was entering Canada (to attend the Westercon of that year) because I wished to sneakily settle there. I promised him I didn't. What I graciously refrained from saying, was that while Canada is a great country, as are many others, I'm now and forever a kiwi, and so say all of us kiwis. Too many of us are aware that people much closer to centers of activity are those who get bombed. Of course, with an "on The Beach" scenario, we'll be watching as everyone else precedes us, but then that at least will give me time to finish reading all the books I want, writing the latest one, then kissing my ass goodbye, *après mon deluge ...*

((I seem to have mislaid the rest of this letter -Ed.)

Lloyd Penney, penneys@bell.net, February 1, 2017

Getting caught up...keep saying that...I now have Interesting Times 4, and with any luck, a loc will issue for the via my fingertips. Better than the alternative, hm?

LiveJournal has been owned by Russian interests for some time now, but I didn't know the contents are now resident in Russia. I still have my LiveJournal account which I use only for an archive...when I finish writing this letter, I will store it on LJ. I haven't said anything they might not like, and other than this particular loc, they don't come up in the conversation. If you see this, LJ, hello!

Ten unpopular opinions...well, they might not be popular, but that doesn't make them any less plausible. And, world government might be plausible if only we could stop thinking of ourselves as of any particular country, religion, race, gender, etc., and start thinking of ourselves as humans. That's not at all likely, although the current US president certainly makes you consider world government...gotta to be better than Trump any day. And Squamish makes Quidditch look quite easy to play.

I hope Brad Foster's been recovering from his eye surgery...been there, and done that. My loc...Canada has been in American headlines, if only to look much better than the US in the eyes of the world when it comes to refugees. Looks like some pipelines are a go, and the DT government (suitable initials) wants to shut down all renewable energy sources. What more could I say about the new US government? They seem determined to stock their cabinet with probably the most

incompetent available, especially the education secretary. Even some Republican senators won't vote for her.

Taral's observations on his health is indeed a cautionary tale, to look after yourself. I gather he's been in the hospital again lately. I hope he's back home soon, if he isn't there already.

The news files...you've got news of GUFF, DUFF and TAFF, but it's been some time since I've heard anything about CUFF. I don't know when it was last won, who won it, and what they did after winning. Housing in Toronto is absolutely nuts \$-wise. A decent house here will cost around a million dollars, and rents are crazy, too. We'd like to move from our apartment, but our rents would immediately go up at least \$400 if we were to do so.

Time to go...we are vending at a convention in Guelph this coming weekend, so I have got to get ready for it. Our merchandise boxes are ready, and we need to pack, and get our table furnishings ready. Anyway, many thanks for this issue, and we will see you with the next one.

We Also Heard From:

Taral Wayne ("Are there still SF clubs? How droll..."), Felicity Walker, R. Graeme Cameron



www.clipartof.com · 1236176

The Case for Mad Science

By the Fabulous Hillside Sneer

Like most SF fans, I dragged some naïve misconceptions into fandom, and one of them was that each of us was an aspiring scientist; even ... dare I say it? ... maybe a Mad Scientist.

Instead, I discovered a deplorably passive and unambitious subculture, entirely preoccupied with the images and trappings of technology while avoiding any awareness of its innards and technicalities. Or maybe I had imprinted on forty-year-old SF and the *Whole Earth Catalog*, instead of cyberpunk and digital technology.

One of the sadder realizations we gain in adulthood is to realize much the same thing about other adults. More and more, we are not citizens, but subjects; not wiser with age, simply older and more tired and defeated by the growing complexity of life; and, like pupils in the grade-school I went to, beaten into meek subjection by lack of access to tools, to equipment, to know-how. Of course, this changed ... but by the time the Internet came around, the damage was done to us boomers. The forces of oligarchy and patriarchy have nearly won.

Since civilization is dying and we are liable to descend into an industrial feudalism ruled by amoral ~~Belgian~~ corporate salarymen, it is up to the remaining Free Fen – the Makers, the Little Brothers, the Imagi-Nation – to break open the realm of possibility and wonder once again, this time with contemporary science, technology, and backyard engineering.

What can *you* do to create alternative energy sources, develop nanotech for grassroots food independence in your neighbourhood, build a ladder to orbital space in *your own backyard!*, or show your friends how to build a solar-powered 3D printer from scrap lumber that can turn grass clippings into high-volume municipal water filters?

Of course, if you set out on this bold adventure, you have to deal with several issues: where to find space for a secret laboratory; how to access power and water, let alone equipment; finding a market, let alone financing, for any projects whatever (be they never so benign); and above and beyond all powers ... contending with ~~Belgian~~ municipal by-laws.

Maybe Charles Stross is right, and contemporary Mad Science requires Mad Science Organizations, not rugged individualists.

Solidarity forever!



When in Doubt, Have a Bird

Taral Wayne

It's been restful since Christmas. I've been to a couple of appointments with doctors, run to the mall for some shopping and visited the supermarket, but otherwise I've put down roots in front of the TV screen and watched movies or cartoons. I seem empty of ambition at the moment. My most fervent wishes involve stimulating food, a variety of entertainments and a good night's sleep.

Draw? Well ... I do, but mainly quick sketches. I have been trying to finish various projects, but it isn't long before I get sick of them and pick up a blank sheet. The freedom to create magic with lines and spaces is far more appealing than the regimentation of all the details. So my pile of unfinished work grows almost daily, while the major unfinished projects before me have been stagnating.

Of course, I always feel this way at this time of year. Christmas is long gone, and New Year's Eve over without even a party to see 2016 off. There is little to look forward to except snow, cold, piercing winds, dull overcasts and the eight walls of my two rooms for the next three months.

There seems only one thing to do ... buy a Romulan War Bird.

A company called Select Diamond makes a series of starships from the Rodenberry universe – several versions of the *Enterprise*, a Klingon Bird of Prey and now this War Bird. I have those I wanted up until now, but the War Bird is a new release.

It is not a pretty ship. It consists of a saucer-like hull, similar to the NCC-1701 in the Original Series, but the two warp engine nacelles stick directly from the saucer's sides, not from a secondary hull. I once described it as a Frisbee with nunchucks attached. A squared-off back end and a fin don't really improve the effect. On the other hand, the big painted eagle on the bottom is pretty cool.

The ship was created for a story in *TOS* called "Balance of Terror," which was a barely concealed script about hunting German U-Boats in WWII. The Romulans had not been seen since the previous round of wars, one or two generations ago ... in fact, no one was even sure what they looked like. Suddenly, the most advanced of new Romulan warships, the "Praetor's" pride and glory,

emerges from the Neutral Zone to attack Federation outposts, and the *Enterprise* must destroy it. Failure would indicate Federation weakness, and invite a full invasion. The trick is that the Romulans are invisible ... like a U-Boat underwater.

The ship must have been cobbled together in a few days, and given a \$14.95 budget ... because it looks like it. As far as I know, that particular design was never seen again in *Star Trek*, either. The cover story is that the Romulans traded their “cloaking” technology to the Klingon Empire in exchange for the design of the D7 Klingon cruiser. I find this a bit difficult to swallow, since Romulans and Klingons *despise* each other even more than they hated the Federation in that era.

Nevertheless, the Romulan Empire had a significant upgrade from the Frisbee-and-Nunchuck class starship to a fleet of new D7s, and the Klingons gained the use of “cloak” technology.

I have only just learned the true reason why the Romulans began using Klingon starships.

Before the Beatle-haired bad guys could return, the studio lost the sole model for the War Bird. With no time or money to make another, they used one of the Klingon ships instead, hoping nobody would notice. That was before they knew about *Star Trek* fandom, so it must have seemed reasonable to think so. The truth doesn’t make good “canon,” though.

So, that is the question for myself. Do I brave the wind and cold tomorrow for a quick trip down the street to the comics shop, and pay the man for the new Romulan War Bird I saw there today? Diamond Select has made most major Federation starships – the *Enterprise*, *Enterprise A*, *Enterprise B*, *Enterprise D*, and *Enterprise E*. There is also an altered D with a three-engine configuration, from “All Things Must End.” I’ve acquired all of those except the alt-D. A while ago they added the *Enterprise NX-01* to the list, and I have little interest in that, as well. They are all high-quality reproductions about 12 to 16 inches long, fully painted and decaled, with lights, sound effects and posable stands. The cost is rather out of this world, though. Diamond Select doesn’t make these for kids, but for adult collectors. If you want a starship for a kid, you want one of the excellent (but much cheaper) Playmates toys.

On the other hand, there is much to be said about staying home and deepening my appreciation of

appendages that have not been damaged by frostbite.



Classifieds

Contact Garth Spencer for advertising information at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

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e-APA, the electronic Amateur Publication Association, is open to new members! Contact Garth Spencer for a copy of the submission guidelines, or see the “Members of e-APA” Facebook page! Deadline for mailings is the first of every month. You can contact Garth Spencer at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Anarcho-Surrealist Party – the original Facebook group for those who can’t believe in one-dimensional politics anymore and want to do something creative. Search Facebook or contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Alien Abductees Anonymous – a Facebook group for aliens who are unfairly confined to this planet. If you are such an alien, look for us on Facebook or contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Paragon Investigations – for all your paranormal research, detection and litigation needs. Our skilled and experienced staff are ready to believe you! Contact fruvousfox@gmail.com

Steampunk Viking Klingon Operetta Society – auditions monthly. Contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Heathen Geeks meets up semi-quarterly. Mead! Shieldmaidens! Operetta auditions! Mead! Authentic Viking tabletop games! Rituals featuring mead! See our Facebook page or contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Second Reformed Anarcho-Surrealist Party with a Hot Tub in the Backyard Society Inc. - The iconoclastic and original splinter group! Contact me at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Bavarian Illuminati (Local 391) – We know how to get things done! Bury \$3,125 in your backyard and one of our underground agents will contact you.

If you do want to see some alternative news, especially about news not covered by conventional broadcast media, what would you care to see?

Below is a selected list of news subjects:

- affordable housing and property taxes in Vancouver
- Anti Terrorism Act
- BC Hydro privatization, and changes in the cost of heat and light
- BC's upcoming election, and the programs of the respective parties
- Bill C-27 – alleged to be a threat to CUPE and CUPW members
- Bill C-51 – alleged to be a threat to freedom of press, and a tool for arbitrary censorship
- criminal violence
- Ecological damage to Georgia Strait from several industries
- Fiat currency
- fish farming in the sea vs. on land
- Liquid Natural Gas
- Nestle's grab for water supplies now in public control, in B.C. and elsewhere
- Petroleum employment vs. fracking
- Private military companies
- Public interest research
- Soldiers of Odin
- the actual extent of a proposed rapid transit line, allegedly heading along Broadway to the University of British Columbia
- The death rate resulting from fentanyl overdoses
- The Mount Polley disaster
- The Site C Hydro project – The government threw out an appeal on the recent lawsuit, while claiming concern for First Nations
- The Trudeau administration's policies and performance
- Trans-Pacific Partnership



What News Do You Want to See?

You may or may not be concerned with actual news, and public issues. There are two attitudes about this: as Voltaire said, cultivate our own gardens – that is, don't trouble yourself with things you can't affect or control; or, as ancient Athenians said, someone who doesn't concern themselves with public affairs is the definition of an idiot.

Calendar

February 2017

Warning: Somewhere around this time, earth scientists including geologists and volcanologists expect an increase in minor earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest, specifically from Puget Sound through Vancouver Island. Probably you simply need to see that cabinets and shelving are securely fastened to walls; but updating and completing your earthquake kit and survival plan for more serious events is always a Good Thing.

Jan. 31 – Feb. 2: **DISTING (Disablot)** / (Charming of the Plow) / Thorrablot / Feast of the Mother, sacred to Disir, Frigg & Nerthus. Honor motherly

energies. Honor the Asynjur (female Aesir) as providers and protectors. Time to count your wealth and make plans for the next financial cycle. Charming of the plow (blessing of your work tools). Toast with milk. Offer honey and biscuits (grains).

February 4: **Winters Tourney**, a Level I (Limited) event held by the Shire of Lionsdale, Fraser Valley, BC. This is an event of the Society for Creative Anachronism (the Principality of Tir Righ, encompassing British Columbia, Oregon, and contiguous territories).

February 9: **Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi**

February 11-12: **Winter's End**, a Level I (Limited) event held by the Shire of False Isle, Powell River, BC. SCA (Tir Righ).

February 13: **BC Family Day**



February 14: **Valentine's Day**. Folk etymology has led to this day being called 'Feast of Vali' in modern Asatru, or **Feast of Love**, a Blót to Freyja as goddess of love and sexual desire. Exchange cards (or stones) inscribed with runes to loved ones. Time to renew vows, and a good time for marriages/handfastings. Recommended lore: Poetic Edda, [Svipdagsmál](#) (lay of Svipdag)

February 17-19: **Tir Righ February Investiture**, a Level I (Limited) event held by the Shire of Lionsdale, Fraser Valley, BC. SCA (Tir Righ).

February 25-26: **Feast for Winter's End**, a Level 2 (Open) event held by the Shire of Coill Moir, 100 Mile House, BC. SCA (Tir Righ).

February 25: **Lion Stage**, a Level 2 (Open) event held by the Barony of Lions Gate, Vancouver, BC. SCA (Tir Righ).

February (into March) – **Hred-manuð (Hreða's Month)**. Hreða is a Goddess and her name means "Glory." Sacrifices are performed to Hreða during this month. Saxon calendar

March 2017

March (into April) – **Ostar-manuð (Ostar Month)**. The Dawn Goddess Ostar.

March 9-12: **VancouFur** [[visit site](#)], a Furry Convention) at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel, Vancouver, BC.

March 18: **Daffodil Tournament**, a Level 1 (Limited) event held by the Barony of Seagirt, Victoria, BC. SCA (Tir Righ).

March 21: **spring equinox / Ostara**, sacred to Freya, Idun, Sunna & Landwights. Awakening of the vital powers of nature. Renewal. Stay up the whole night before and hold blót in morning once sun raises. Read the 'hail to day'. Have fresh cut flowers on harrow. Honor the Gods and/or Landwights with seasonal offerings. The arrival of spring heralds bitter greens, early flowers, and milk and eggs. Also, an end to the near-starvation of the long, dark winter months. Celebrate with a feast of new greens, eggs, milk and cheese, and other spring produce like asparagus, leeks, and/or radishes. If meat eater, spring lamb would be another good addition. In all things, go for local or regional foods, especially if you are honoring the landwights. Grimm (*German Mythology*, p.75) states that the Saxons lit fires on Ostar, not Liða. Ostar is celebrated with a festival on full moon commemorating the first day of summer. Festivals to Ostar during this month. Saxon calendar

March 24-26: **Quest for the Golden Fleece**, a Level 1 (Limited) event held by the Shire of Ramsgaard, Kamloops, BC. SCA (Tir Righ)

March 28 – **Ragnar Lothbrok's day**



Freedom of the Press

Ansible 354, January 2017 From David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK. Website news.ansible.uk. Much news about SF fans and pros; entirely too many obituaries; European (oh all right, British) convention listings. **No Belgians in this issue.**

Askew #18, John Purcell ed. 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845, USA.

askance73@gmail.com This fanzine supports John Purcell for TAFF in 2017! TAFF is the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, the fund that assists a fan-voted Well Known Fan to attend overseas conventions, such as the Worldcon in Helsinki this year. The deadline to vote is March 4, 2017. This fanzine also supports the Worldcon bids for Dublin in 2019, New Zealand in 2020 and Dallas/Fort Worth in 2021. This fanzine also features varied book reviews, and letters of comment.

This fanzine knows an English word that rhymes with orange.

And this little fanzine had roast beef ...

(Take your meds, Garth)

Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter January-February 2017, from Burnaby, BC. See <http://burnabywritersnews.blogspot.com>, or email info@bws.ca. Annual membership \$35 (\$25 to seniors, students and the unwaged). Who got what published where, writers' workshop type happenings in the Lower Mainland, and market news.

CounterClock #27, January 2017, from Wolf von Witting, Via del Banduzzi 6/4, 33050 Bagnaria Arsa (Ud), Italy; wolfram1764@yahoo.se. This fanzine supports John Purcell for TAFF in 2017; features much fannishness, including reports on the hoax Twerpcon which was not held in 1954; fanhistory, and letters, and European con news; and is almost entirely Belgium free.

Trap Door #32 from Robert Lichtman at <http://efanzines.com>. What happens when Belgians get their tails trapped in the door, and other crowd-pleasers.

Vibrator 35, December 2016, Graham Charnock at graham@cartiledgeworld.co.uk. Graham Charnock on the Great Execration and what we can expect, letters, and taxi driving in Las Vegas. ~~No Belgians in this issue either.~~

The 10 Commandments of Logic

1. Thou shall not attack the person's character, but the argument. (*Ad hominem*)
2. Thou shall not misrepresent or exaggerate a person's argument in order to make them easier to attack. (*Straw man fallacy*)
3. Thou shall not use small numbers to represent the whole. (*Hasty generalization*)
4. Thou shall not argue thy position by assuming one of its premises is true. (*Begging the question*)
5. Thou shall not claim that because something occurred before, it must be the cause. (*Post Hoc/False cause*)
6. Thou shall not reduce the argument down to two possibilities. (*False dichotomy*)
7. Thou shall not argue that because of our ignorance, claim must be true or false. (*Ad Ignorantum*)
8. Thou shall not lay the burden of proof onto him that is questioning the claim. (*Burden of proof reversal*)
9. Thou shall not assume "this" follows "that" when it has no logical connection. (*Non sequitur*)
10. Thou shall not claim that because a premise is popular, therefore it must be true. (*Bandwagon fallacy*)